

## N E W S R E L E A S E

**Contact:** Loree Levy  
Velessata Kelley  
(916) 654-9029

**Date:** November 17, 2006

**News Release No.:** 06-54

### **California's Unemployment Rate Declines to Record Low 4.5 Percent** **Payroll Employment Up 9,300 Jobs**

**SACRAMENTO** – California's unemployment rate was 4.5 percent in October, down from 4.8 percent in September, the state Employment Development Department (EDD) reported today. This is a record low since the employment data series was established in 1976. A year ago, in October 2005, California's unemployment rate was 5.2 percent.

According to EDD's survey of employers, nonfarm payroll employment in California increased by 9,300 jobs over the month, for a total of 15,053,400 jobs.

According to the separate survey of households, the number of Californians holding jobs in October was 17,034,000. This was an increase of 92,000 jobs from September, and up 179,000 jobs from the employment total in October of last year.

The number of people unemployed in California was 794,000 – a decrease of 64,000 over the month, and down by 130,000 compared with October of last year.

Of the unemployed, 239,300 were laid off, 81,000 left their jobs voluntarily, and the remaining were either new entrants or reentrants into the labor market, or persons who completed temporary jobs.

#### **UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)**

In related data, the EDD reported that there were 302,233 people receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits during the October survey week. This compares with 296,597 last month and 308,621 last year. At the same time, new claims for unemployment insurance were 37,918 in October 2006, compared with 36,491 in September and 40,806 in October of last year.

-more-

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

EDD's report on payroll employment (wage and salary jobs) in the nonfarm industries of California totaled 15,053,400 in October, a net gain of 9,300 jobs since the September survey. This followed a gain of 17,900 jobs (as revised) in September.

Five of the categories (**natural resources and mining; financial activities; professional and business services; educational and health services; and leisure and hospitality**) added jobs over the month, gaining 16,200 jobs. The professional and business services industry showed the largest gain, up by 8,700 jobs. Six categories (**construction; manufacturing; trade, transportation and utilities; information; other services; and government**) reported job declines this month, down 6,900 jobs. Government posted the largest decline over the month, down by 2,000 jobs.

In a year-over-year comparison (October 2005 to October 2006), nonfarm payroll employment in California increased by 163,800 jobs (up 1.1 percent).

Eight industry divisions (**natural resources and mining; trade, transportation and utilities; financial activities; professional and business services; educational and health services; leisure and hospitality; other services; and government**) posted job gains over the year, adding 169,600 jobs. On a numerical basis, professional and business services showed the strongest employment growth, adding 48,000 jobs (a 2.2 percent increase). On a percentage of growth basis, natural resources and mining showed the strongest gain, up 3.8 percent (adding 900 jobs).

Two categories (**construction and information**) posted job declines over the year, down 5,800 jobs creating (a 0.4 percent decrease) for both industries. One industry (**manufacturing**) had no change. On a numerical basis, construction employment showed the largest decline, down by 4,000 jobs.

## WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

Over the month, employment in **government** showed the largest non-seasonally adjusted gain, up by 53,000 jobs. Most of the gains were concentrated in state and local government education, which added 12,700 jobs and 43,900 jobs, respectively, continuing to reflect employment for the new school year. **Manufacturing** recorded the greatest non-seasonally adjusted loss, down by 14,700 jobs. Most of the losses were in the nondurable goods sector, which declined by 14,500 jobs, primarily in food manufacturing which decreased by 11,800 jobs.

The **professional and business services** industries reported the largest gain over the year, up 48,400 jobs. The largest gains were in the administrative and support and waste services sector, which was up by 27,900 jobs and the professional, scientific and technical services sector which added 20,100 jobs. The largest decrease over the year was in **construction**, which was down by 4,100 jobs. Most of these losses were specialty trade contractors whose employment declined by 4,400 jobs over the year.

Seasonally adjusted payroll detail follows:

**WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA**  
(Amounts in thousands)

Industrial Classification	October 2006 (prelim.)	September 2006	October 2005	Change Over 12 months (Percent)
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers . . . . .	15,053.4	15,044.1	14,889.6	1.1
Natural resources and mining . . . . .	24.7	24.4	23.8	3.8
Construction . . . . .	915.5	916.1	919.5	-0.4
Manufacturing . . . . .	1,509.8	1,511.3	1,509.8	0.0
Trade, transportation and utilities . . . . .	2,836.6	2,838.2	2,834.1	0.1
Information . . . . .	473.1	474.2	474.9	-0.4
Financial activities . . . . .	946.1	945.3	935.2	1.2
Professional and business services . . . . .	2,216.3	2,207.6	2,168.3	2.2
Educational and health services . . . . .	1,620.8	1,619.1	1,594.2	1.7
Leisure and hospitality . . . . .	1,525.4	1,520.7	1,487.8	2.5
Other services . . . . .	523.9	524.0	515.4	1.6
Government* . . . . .	2,461.2	2,463.2	2,426.6	1.4
Agriculture . . . . .	368.3	376.0	368.6	-0.1

\*Includes all civilian employees of federal, state, and local governments.

**TABLE A**  
**EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA**

	October 2006	September 2006	August 2006	October 2005
Civilian labor force <sup>a</sup> . . . . .	17,828,000	17,800,000	17,652,000	17,779,000
Total civilian employment . . . . .	17,034,000	16,942,000	16,783,000	16,855,000
Unemployment . . . . .	794,000	858,000	869,000	924,000
Seasonally adjusted rate % . . . . .	4.5	4.8	4.9	5.2
US seasonally adjusted rate % . . . . .	4.4	4.6	4.7	4.9

**TABLE B**  
**EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, UNADJUSTED DATA**

	October 2006	September 2006	August 2006	October 2005
Civilian labor force <sup>a</sup> . . . . .	17,864,000	17,793,000	17,768,000	17,851,000
Total civilian employment . . . . .	17,107,000	16,977,000	16,905,000	16,976,000
Unemployment . . . . .	757,000	816,000	863,000	875,000
Unadjusted rate % . . . . .	4.2	4.6	4.9	4.9

<sup>a</sup>Labor force by place of residence including workers involved in trade disputes.

**MONTHLY LABOR FORCE DATA FOR COUNTIES  
OCTOBER 2006; 2005 BENCHMARK  
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE
<b>STATE TOTAL</b>	<b>17,863,600</b>	<b>17,106,900</b>	<b>756,700</b>	<b>4.2%</b>
ALAMEDA	757,700	727,400	30,300	4.0%
ALPINE	460	430	30	6.7%
AMADOR	16,920	16,190	720	4.3%
BUTTE	102,500	97,800	4,700	4.6%
CALAVERAS	21,300	20,370	940	4.4%
COLUSA	10,290	9,570	720	7.0%
CONTRA COSTA	519,500	500,000	19,500	3.8%
DEL NORTE	10,890	10,250	640	5.9%
EL DORADO	92,400	89,000	3,400	3.7%
FRESNO	397,800	370,500	27,300	6.9%
GLENN	11,800	11,120	680	5.7%
HUMBOLDT	61,400	58,700	2,700	4.3%
IMPERIAL	63,500	53,300	10,200	16.1%
INYO	9,140	8,790	360	3.9%
KERN	331,800	311,400	20,400	6.1%
KINGS	55,000	51,200	3,800	7.0%
LAKE	26,280	24,830	1,450	5.5%
LASSEN	12,870	12,170	690	5.4%
LOS ANGELES	4,857,400	4,653,400	204,000	4.2%
MADERA	62,700	59,400	3,400	5.4%
MARIN	132,000	127,900	4,100	3.1%
MARIPOSA	9,090	8,700	400	4.4%
MENDOCINO	44,470	42,690	1,780	4.0%
MERCED	99,400	92,700	6,700	6.7%
MODOC	4,140	3,910	230	5.4%
MONO	7,990	7,630	360	4.5%
MONTEREY	207,100	197,800	9,300	4.5%
NAPA	73,300	71,100	2,200	3.0%
NEVADA	50,490	48,750	1,740	3.4%
ORANGE	1,619,000	1,568,300	50,700	3.1%
PLACER	165,400	159,900	5,600	3.4%
PLUMAS	10,610	10,130	480	4.6%
RIVERSIDE	870,100	830,000	40,000	4.6%
SACRAMENTO	686,100	657,900	28,300	4.1%
SAN BENITO	24,600	23,500	1,200	4.8%
SAN BERNARDINO	881,200	844,700	36,500	4.1%
SAN DIEGO	1,524,600	1,469,400	55,200	3.6%
SAN FRANCISCO	425,100	409,000	16,100	3.8%
SAN JOAQUIN	287,700	270,600	17,200	6.0%
SAN LUIS OBISPO	133,800	129,400	4,400	3.3%
SAN MATEO	368,900	356,800	12,100	3.3%
SANTA BARBARA	215,800	208,300	7,400	3.4%
SANTA CLARA	827,500	793,100	34,300	4.1%
SANTA CRUZ	144,300	138,400	5,900	4.1%
SHASTA	83,000	78,800	4,200	5.1%
SIERRA	1,660	1,590	70	4.3%
SISKIYOU	18,630	17,550	1,080	5.8%
SOLANO	213,600	204,600	9,000	4.2%
SONOMA	255,000	246,100	8,900	3.5%
STANISLAUS	229,300	214,800	14,400	6.3%
SUTTER	41,100	38,600	2,500	6.1%
TEHAMA	26,480	25,230	1,250	4.7%
TRINITY	5,240	4,910	330	6.3%
TULARE	182,000	168,600	13,400	7.4%
TUOLUMNE	26,050	24,850	1,200	4.6%
VENTURA	425,600	408,800	16,900	4.0%
YOLO	95,000	91,300	3,700	3.9%
YUBA	26,500	24,600	1,900	7.2%